

This publication contains statistics on work experience, sector-based work academies and skills conditionality. Work experience was introduced in January 2011, whilst sector-based work academies and Skills Conditionality were introduced in August 2011. These opportunities are available to claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA), those in the Work Related Activity Group (WRAG) of Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and some other out-of-work benefits, including Universal Credit (UC). These statistics cover legacy benefits only and do not include UC claimants.

590,470 work experience starts by 438,530 individuals in total.

141,980 starts in the last 12 months, a 4% decrease on the previous year.

to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016

268,170 sector-based work academy starts by 206,910 individuals in total.

37,530 starts in the last 12 months, a 38% decrease on the previous year.

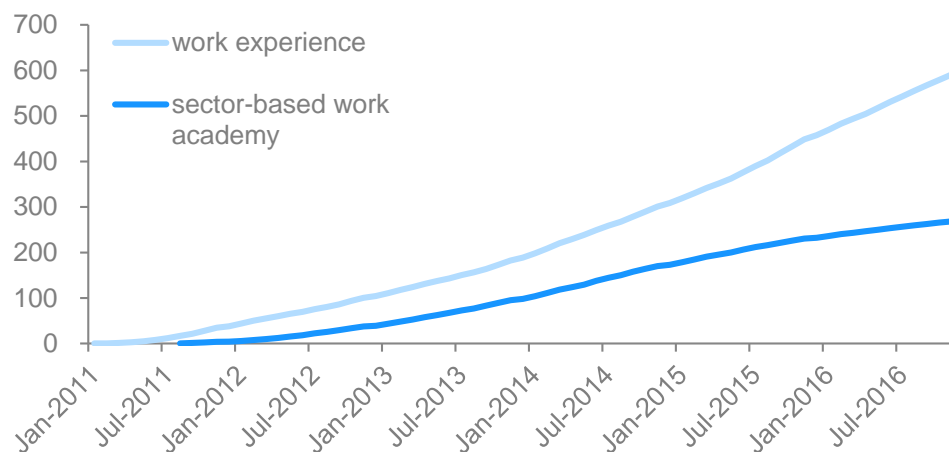
to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016

1,306,830 individuals starting skills conditionality in total, of which 565,390 have started on the training element

65,910 skills conditionality (training) starts in the last 12 months, a decrease of 48% on the previous year.  
to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016

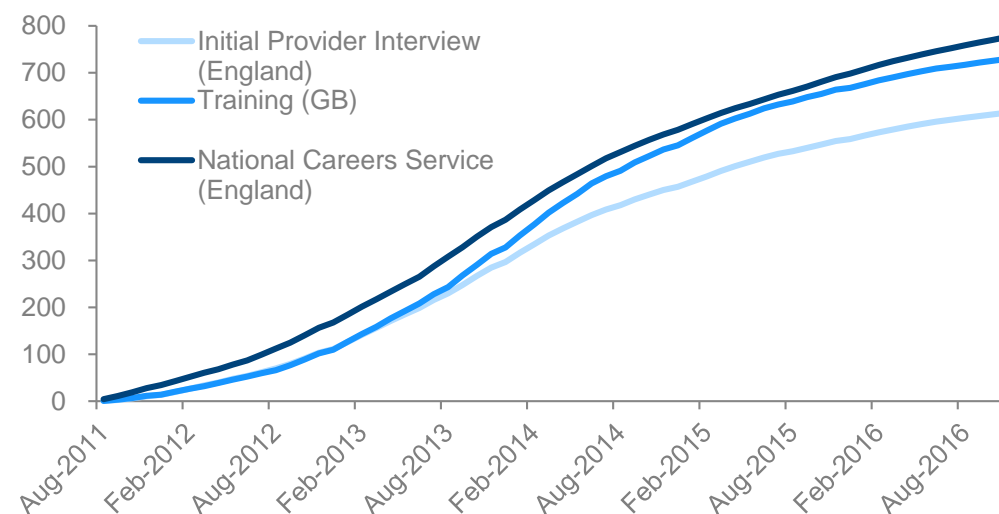
## Work experience, sector-based work academy starts, cumulative

Thousands



## Skills conditionality starts, cumulative

Thousands



## At a glance

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## Employment Schemes: An introduction

Opportunities to participate in **work experience**, **sector-based work academies**, or other skills-related support through **Skills Conditionality** with additional Jobcentre Plus work coach support are available to claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance, those in the Work Related Activity Group of Employment and Support Allowance, and some other out-of-work benefits, including Universal Credit. These opportunities help claimants to gain valuable work-related skills, and aim to improve employability prospects. Claimants can also 'self-refer' themselves to appropriate training on a voluntary basis. DWP and DfE publish separate statistics on total [Further Education for benefit claimants](#).

**Work experience** opportunities have been available since January 2011. Jobcentre Plus works with employers to offer jobseekers the opportunity to overcome barriers to employment through offering them a **work experience** placement lasting two to eight weeks, with the aim to provide participants with the skills employers are looking for. **Sector-based work academies** were introduced in August 2011 in England and January 2012 in Scotland. They are not available in Wales. This scheme offers pre-employment training, a work experience placement and guaranteed job interview for recipients of JSA, UC (all work-related requirements group) or ESA (WRAG), aged 18 years or over, or eligible lone parents aged 18-24 in receipt of Income Support, whose youngest child is under the age of four. These statistics show starts to the pre-employment training (PET) element of sector-based work academy placements

**Sector-based work academies** are developed in partnership with employers and run in sectors with high volumes of current local vacancies. Jobseekers voluntarily opt to take up a place, but once they agree to take up a placement they must complete the pre-training element, attend the job interview and accept any subsequent offer of a job.

**Skills Conditionality** is a policy that requires claimants receiving JSA or ESA (WRAG) to undertake mandatory activity to address an identified skills need which will aid their movement into work. Skills Conditionality is split into three categories: support to gain skills through training; support via the National Careers Service (NCS); and Initial Provider Interview (IPI) with a training provider. Training includes basic skills (English, numeracy, literacy), occupational skills, employability skills and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and an individual can be referred to one or more aspects of training. These statistics include starts to the following elements of Skills Conditionality: initial provider interviews, National Careers Service and training.

**Skills Conditionality** started on 1st August 2011 in England. In Scotland, the scheme started from 25th June 2012 for contracted training provision only and from November 2014 for DWP ad hoc training. In Wales, Skills Conditionality is for basic skills training provision only: Skills for Work (Wales) from October 2012 to February 2014, Work Ready Essential Skills training from May 2014 to June 2015; and DWP ad hoc training from November 2014.

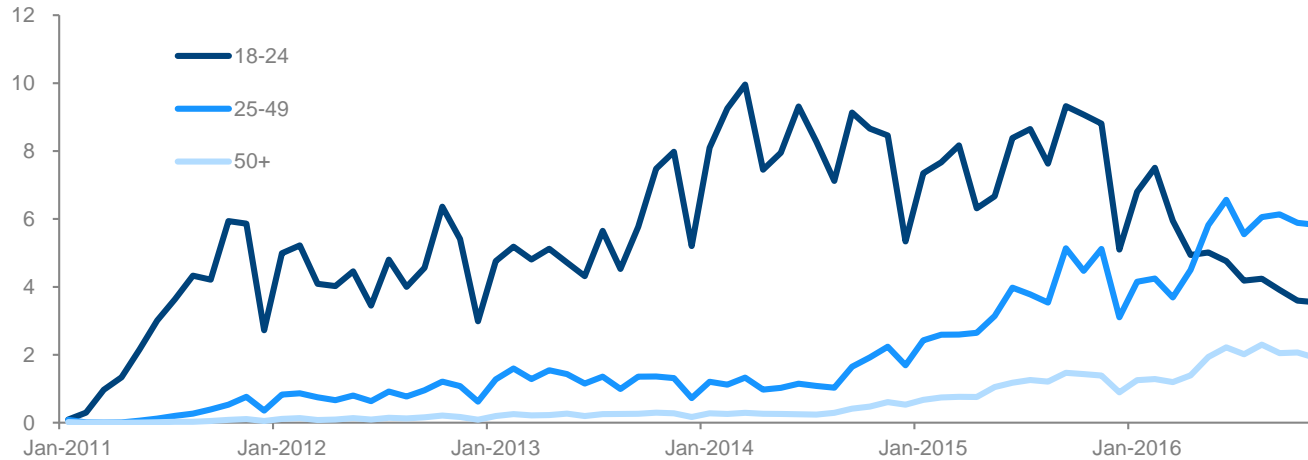
### Status of the statistics

This document shows various breakdowns for **work experience** starts, **sector-based work academy** (pre-employment training) starts and **Skills Conditionality** (training) starts. **Further breakdowns**, including **Skills Conditionality** referrals, are available in the **accompanying tables**. There will be an undercount of starts in areas where Universal Credit has been introduced. As the proportion of **Universal Credit** claimants on the scheme rises, this undercount will increase. Work is underway to include these claimants and will be addressed in a future publication.

# Starts to work experience and sector-based work academies

## Number of work experience starts by age group

Thousands



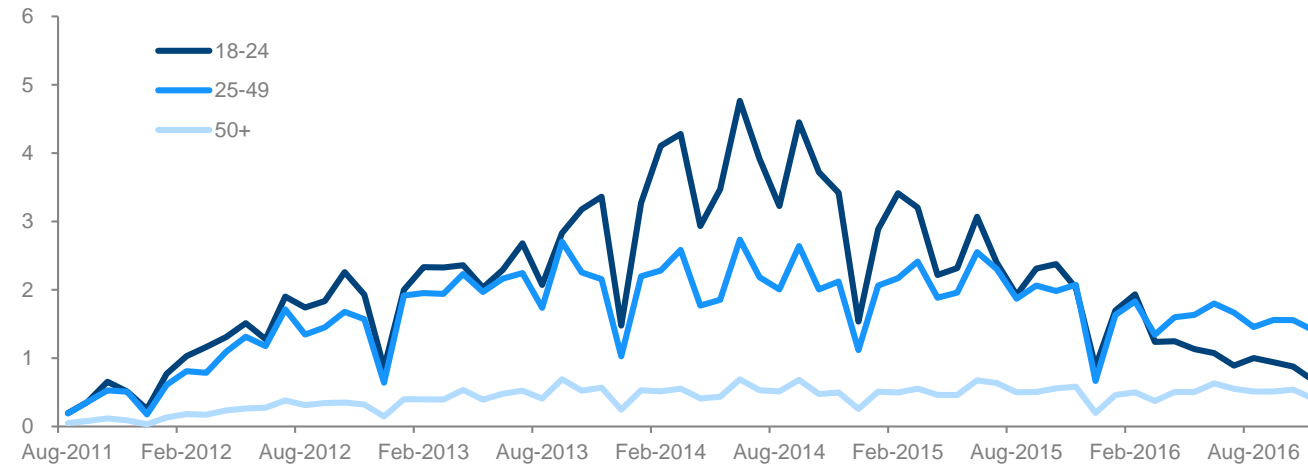
## Main Findings

From January 2011-November 2016, there have been **590,470 work experience** starts, with **141,980** starts over the last year (December 2015-November 2016). The trend for those aged 18-24 follows the general decrease in JSA claimant numbers. For those over 24, there has been an increase in the number starting work experience since mid-2014 as it has increasingly been seen of value to older workers.

Source: LMS Opportunities December 2016

## Number of sector-based work academy starts by age group

Thousands



From August 2011-November 2016, there have been **268,170 sector-based work academy** starts, with 37,530 starts over the last year (December 2015-November 2016).

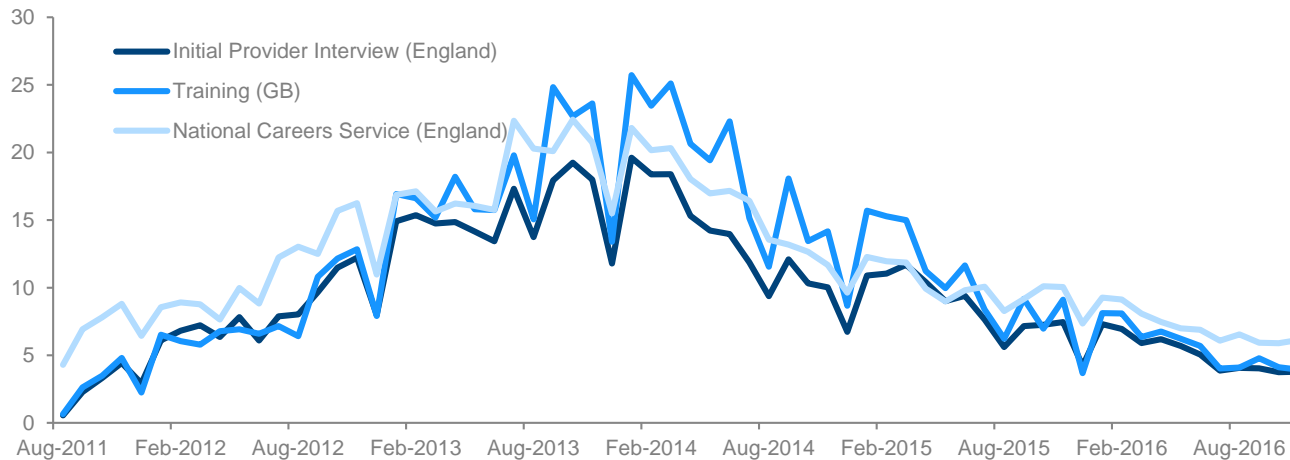
The decrease of 38% compared on the previous year (December 2014-November 2015) is largely due to an overall fall in the claimant count; also, figures for UC claimants are not represented here. There have also been changes in Government funding for skills, with a greater focus on programmes such as apprenticeships and traineeships.

Source: LMS Opportunities December 2016

# Starts to Skills Conditionality

## Number of Skills Conditionality starts by subgroup

Thousands



## Main Findings

From August 2011 – November 2016, there have been **615,460 Skills Conditionality (initial provider interview)** starts, **729,920 Skills Conditionality (training)** starts and **776,600 Skills Conditionality (national careers service)** starts

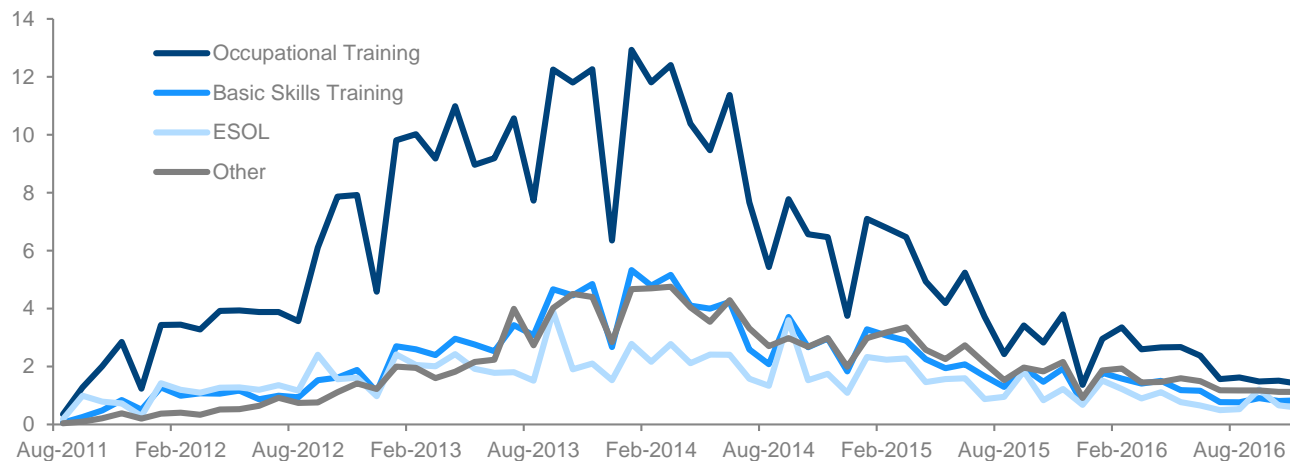
The fall in skills conditionality is higher than the fall in the JSA claimant count. There have also been changes in Government funding for skills, with a greater focus on programmes such as apprenticeships and traineeships.

An individual can start one or more aspect of Skills Conditionality, so an individual can appear in either Initial Provider Interview, Training or National Careers Service.

# Starts to Skills Conditionality (Training)

## Number of Skills Conditionality (Training) starts by subgroup

Thousands



Occupational training refers to Occupational training funded by the Skills Funding Agency. Basic skills training refers to training on English, numeracy and literacy skills. ESOL refers to English for Speakers of Other Languages. Other training refers to DWP contracted ad-hoc skills provision and skills for work Wales between October 2012 and February 2014.

An individual can start one or more aspect of Skills Conditionality (Training), so an individual can appear in either occupational training, basic skills training, ESOL or other.

Source: LMS Opportunities December 2016

# Characteristics of individuals starting work experience

January 2011 – November 2016

## Main findings

48% (211,100) participating in work experience are women and 1 in 4 have a self-declared disability

As at November 2016, **60%** of the JSA claimant count was **male**<sup>1</sup>.

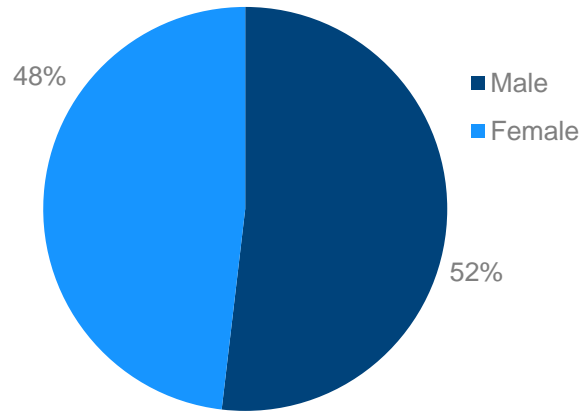
**1 in 10** (33,610) participating in work experience are **aged above 50** and **1 in 5** are from **ethnic minorities**

The number of people **aged 18-24** starting a work experience placement between January 2011 and November 2016 was **67%** which is greater than the percentage of people **aged 18-24** starting a sector-based work academy, **43%**.

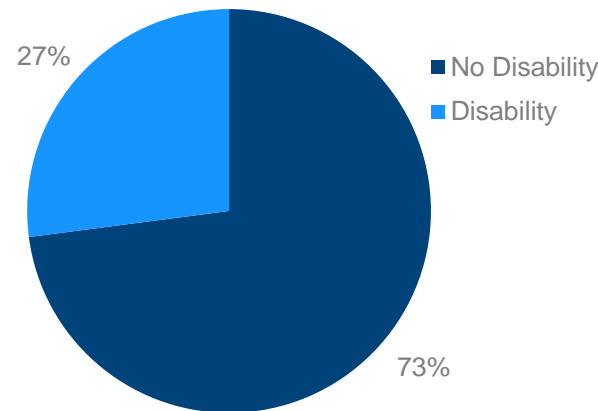
The percentage of those **aged 25-49** who started a work experience placement is **26%**.

As at November 2016, **57%** of the JSA claimant count was **aged 25-49**<sup>2</sup>.

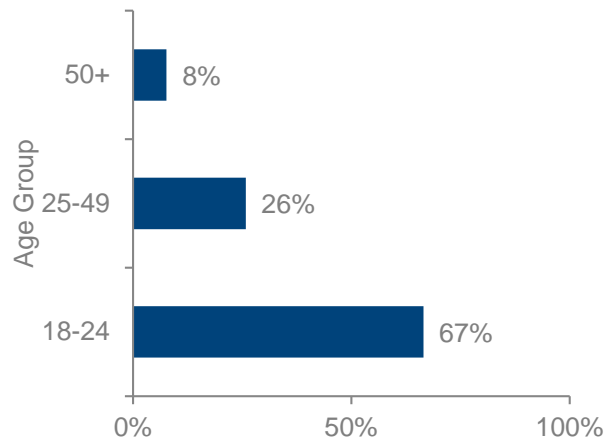
### Gender breakdown



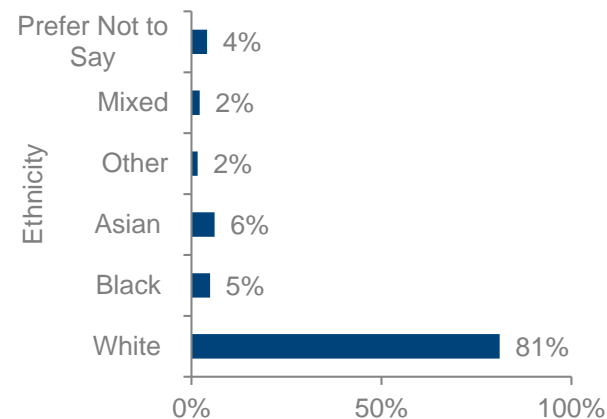
### Self declared disability status



### Age breakdown



### Ethnicity breakdown



Source: LMS Opportunities December 2016, NOMIS

Note: values in charts may not add to 100% due to missing values and rounding.

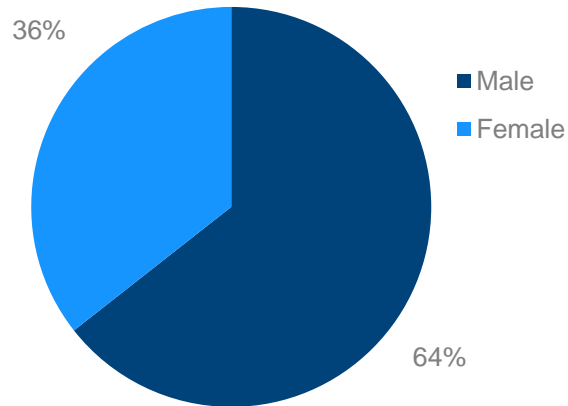
<sup>1</sup> NOMIS: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

<sup>2</sup> NOMIS: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

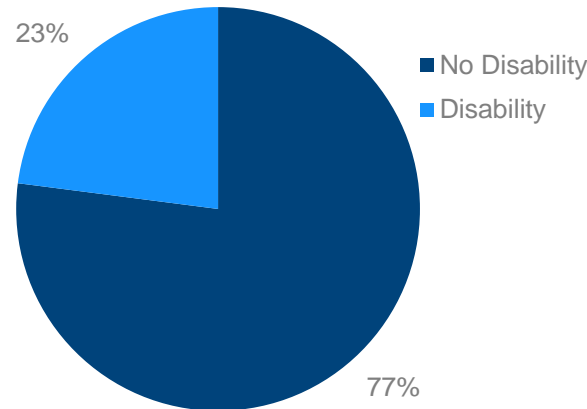
# Characteristics of individuals starting sector-based work academies

August 2011 – November 2016

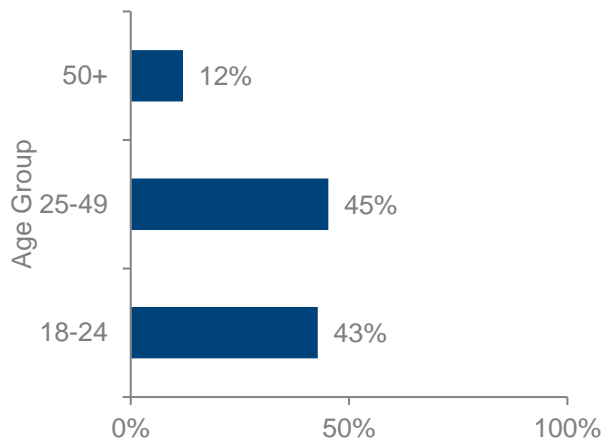
### Gender breakdown



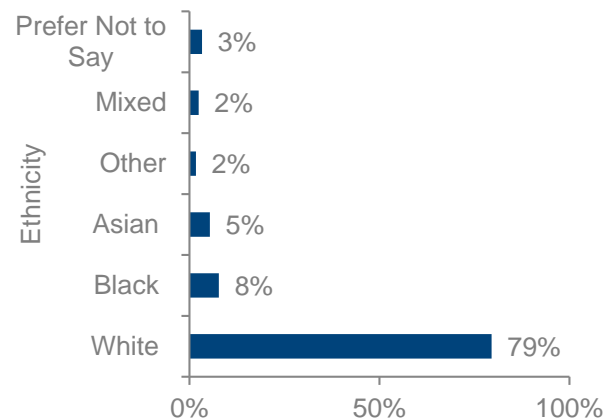
### Self declared disability status



### Age breakdown



### Ethnicity breakdown



## Main findings

Just over 35% participating in sector-based work academies are women and roughly **1 in 4** have a **self-declared disability** and **1 in 5** are from ethnic minorities.

Of the people who started on sector-based work academies, **64%** are **male**, whilst a smaller proportion of males started on work experience, **52%**.

**43%** of those participating in sector-based work academies are **aged 18-24**.

As at November 2016, **15%** of the JSA claimant count was **aged 18-24**<sup>3</sup>.

Source: LMS Opportunities December 2016, NOMIS

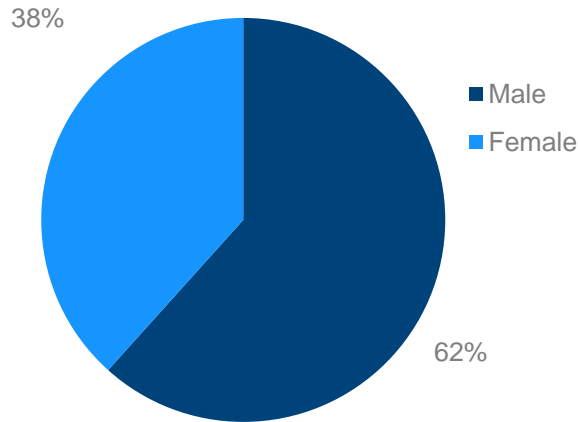
Note: values in charts may not add to 100% due to missing values and rounding.

<sup>3</sup> NOMIS: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

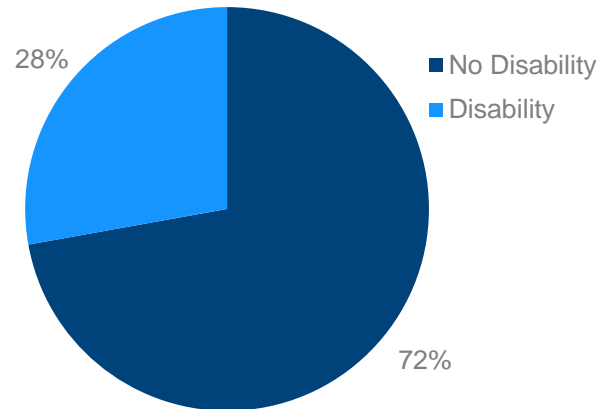
# Characteristics of individuals starting Skills Conditionality

August 2011 – November 2016

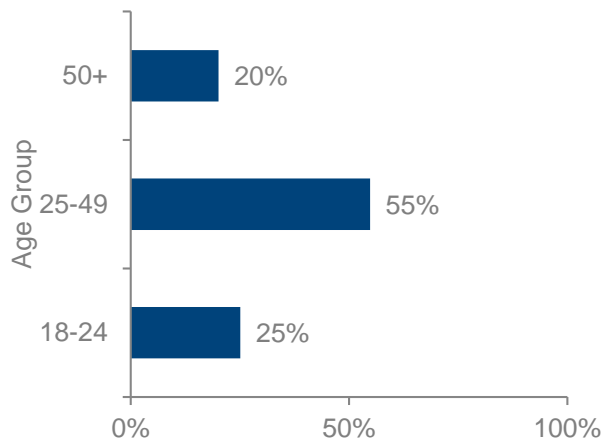
### Gender breakdown



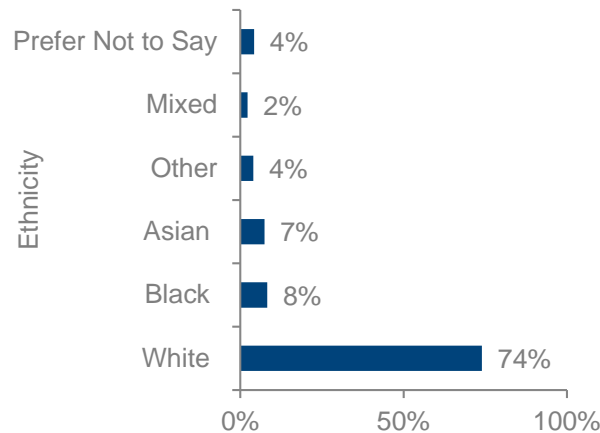
### Self declared disability status



### Age breakdown



### Ethnicity breakdown



## Main findings

Of the **1,306,830** individuals starting Skills Conditionality between August 2011 and November 2016 **38%** are **women** (501,040) and **28%** have a **self-declared disability** (363,660).

**1 in 5** participating in Skills Conditionality are aged 50+ and **3 in 4** are **white**.

Of the people who started on Skills Conditionality **25%** are **aged 18-24**, which is a smaller proportion when compared with those starting work experience (**67%**) and sector-based work academies (**43%**)

As at November 2016, **15%** of the JSA claimant count was **aged 18-24**<sup>4</sup>.

Source: LMS Opportunities December 2016, NOMIS

Note: values in charts may not add to 100% due to missing values and rounding.

<sup>4</sup> NOMIS: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/>

# Eligibility and Phases

People claiming out of work benefits have been able to participate in work experience, sector-based work academies and Skills Conditionality through a variety of schemes.

2011

**January 2011** – **Work experience** launched in Great Britain as part of the Get Britain Working initiative.

**August 2011** – **Sector-based work academies** and **Skills Conditionality** launched in England only.

2012

**January 2012** – **Sector-based work academies** launched in Scotland.

**April 2012** – **Youth Contract** starts. The Youth Contract was a cross-Government programme of support for 18-24 year olds introduced as a response to the economic downturn, which included funding for **sector-based work academies** and **work experience** places for benefit claimants. It ran from April 2012 to March 2015.

**June 2012** – **Skills Conditionality** is launched in Scotland, for training provision only.

**October 2012** – **Skills Conditionality** is launched in Wales, through the **Skills for Work Wales** provision, ending in February 2014.

2013

**April 2013** – **Universal Credit live service** began roll out in pilot areas available only to single people or couples without children with national rollout starting in **October 2013**. Eligible UC claimants are able to access work experience, sector-based work academies and skills conditionality although these claimants are not yet included in these Official Statistics.

2014

**April 2014** – **Sector-based work academy** opportunities are extended to Income Support claimants aged 18-24 in the lone parent group, whose youngest child is under the age of four.

**May 2014** – Welsh Government launches [Skills Conditionality Pilot](#) to evaluate **Skills Conditionality** in Wales. Referrals to the Work Ready Essential Skills Training delivered under the pilot operated until June 2015

2015

**February 2015** – Nationwide roll-out of **Universal Credit** begins. Those claiming **Universal Credit** who are not in work, education or training are able to take part in **work experience**, **sector-based work academy** and **Skills Conditionality** opportunities.

**April 2015** – the **Youth Offer** provides extra support for young people aged 18-24 from April 2015 to March 2017. This includes referrals to **work experience** and **sector-based work academy** placements.

2016

**May 2016** – **Universal Credit full service** began roll out available for all claimant types with the national rollout set to be completed in September 2018.



## About these statistics

These official statistics have been compiled using the December 2016 DWP Labour Market System opportunities database and the September 2016 National Benefits Database.

## Where to find out more

This document and the summary tables can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/youth-offer-work-experience-and-sector-based-work-academy-starts-to-november-2016>

Older releases can be found here but please note that figures are subject to change. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/pre-work-programme-and-get-britain-working>